

A PROCLAMATION
BY THE LOUISVILLE JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT
RECOGNIZING
FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky, launched Negro History Week in February of 1926 as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history, and

WHEREAS, Carter Woodson who was born to parents who were former slaves, spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty but ultimately earned a Ph.D. from Harvard, and

WHEREAS, Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, and

WHEREAS, In 1976, in conjunction with the United States bicentennial, the Negro History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and

WHEREAS, In year of 2009, the list of realized aspirations of African Americans now includes the election of Barack Obama as the first African American elected to the highest office in our nation, and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time for all Americans to recognize, commemorate, and reflect upon the tremendous contributions made by African Americans to America's diverse heritage, culture, and global history; and to inspire American leadership on all levels to continue their efforts to bring about a more just, peaceful, and prosperous society for all citizens.

Now we therefore hereby proclaim February as Black History Month in the Louisville Jefferson Metro area and urge all citizens to be mindful of the many valuable contributions of African Americans in our society.

Done, at the Louisville/Jefferson Metro Council, this the 12th day of February 2009

*Mary C. Woolridge, Councilwoman
Metro Council District 3*

*David Tandy, President
Louisville Metro Council*